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Bush Says He'll Leave CIA When Carter Takes Office

Associated Press

George Bush, who took over the embattled Central Intelligence Agency less than a year ago, announced today he is resigning as director of the spy agency, effective Inauguration Day.

An announcement issued by a CIA spokesman said Bush "would not remain as director after Jan. 20, 1977." It said Bush "pledged his continuing full assistance" to President-elect Jimmy Carter during the transition between administrations.

Bush, onetime congressman, top-level diplomat and former Republican party chairman, informed both

Thomas Bertram (Bert) Lance, an Atlanta banker and longtime political associate of Jimmy Carter, is the President-elect's choice for the Cabinet-level job of director of the Office and Management and Budget. Page A-6.

President Ford and Carter of his decision. He gave no indication of his future plans.

Bush briefed Carter for nearly six hours last Friday at the president-elect's home in Plains, Ga., on the highly secret methods the CIA uses to gather intelligence around the world. At that time Bush refused to say whether the possibility of remaining in his job had been raised during the session with Carter.

Carter has given no indication of whom he might appoint to replace Bush.

BUSH TOOK OVER as head of the CIA last Jan. 30 and immediately was confronted with the job of restoring public confidence in the agency, which had been the target of investigations into improper activities. "No politics, no policy bias, will color the collective judgment of the CIA," he declared at his swearing-in ceremony.

He also pledged to protect the agency's confidentiality.

"I will not turn my back from the past," he said. "We've learned a lot about what an intelligence agency must do to maintain the confidence of the people in an open society. But the emphasis now will be on the future."

Bush succeeded William E. Colby, who had been defending the CIA during congressional investigations of agency operations.

Although he had no background as a spy before taking over the CIA, Bush had occupied two of the nation's most sensitive diplomatic posts.

IN 1970 President Richard M. Nixon named Bush as ambassador to the United Nations. Then in September 1974, while serving as the Republican party's national chairman, Bush was chosen by Ford to be the U.S. envoy to the People's Republic of China. He held that post until going to the CIA.

George Herbert Walker Bush has a background of middling success in politics and a great success in business.

After graduating from Yale in 1948, Bush made millions in Texas oil enterprises.